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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HENSARLING).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 21, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JEB HENSARLING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

TEN YEARS

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, this week the Republican congressional majority will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the legislative agenda that helped win our majority in the 1994 elections. There will be both praise and criticism of our tenure in the majority, though on the whole, the record shows the benefits our stewardship has brought the Nation in the last decade.

In the last decade, welfare has been reformed, taxes have been cut four times, Medicare has been secured and our health care system strengthened,

our military has been restored to its rightful place atop our national agenda, the budget came into balance, public schools have been called to account for decades of underachievement, and our economy has grown 69 percent.

It was doubted so much could be accomplished in 20 years, let alone 10. But while many will seek to argue over our accomplishments of the last decade, the responsibility of those of us in the majority is to focus on the next decade. If the last 10 years have shown the American people that Republicans can govern, the next 10 years must show them that Republicans should govern. So, rather than looking back on an old agenda, we must look forward to a new one, of equal principle and utility, an agenda not just of words but deeds, to protect and defend the security, prosperity and families of the United States.

An agenda not just of tax relief but of fundamental, national tax reform. Not just of preserving our health care and retirement systems for the greatest generation, but of fundamentally rethinking those systems for all generations. Not just of helping small businesses succeed, but of passing sweeping lawsuit abuse reform and universal regulatory reform to get predatory lawyers and busybody bureaucrats off small businesses' backs once and for all. Not just of bandaging over the social wounds inflicted by a culture of death, but of taking up the cause of America's armies of compassion and our Nation's emerging culture of life. Not just of defending our Nation, but of proudly fighting for it, and the ideals upon which it was founded, anywhere and everywhere they are threatened.

It has been a good 10 years, Mr. Speaker. But the celebrations this week do not mark an end, but a new beginning, and a new era of ever more ambitious and worthy ideas, so that we may leave our Nation better than we found it.

That is the purpose of this institution, the goal of this Republican majority, and the driving force behind our agenda for the next 10 years.

SECURING THE NATION'S BORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, since the 9/11 Commission's final report was issued, we in this body have been working diligently to prepare legislation to improve our Nation's security. To that end, I want to talk about a paramount national security concern, and that is the security of our borders. I know many of us have seen this recent Time Magazine cover story which focused on the incredibly porous southern border that we have with Mexico.

I personally was absolutely horrified when I read this article, Mr. Speaker, on reports of human rights abuses perpetrated by "coyotes" who charge exorbitant fees to lead immigrants illegally across the border, as well as Time's accounts of the heinous acts committed by some of those illegals. And clearly, having a border which people feel they can cross illegally at any time is a national security vulnerability.

We must recognize that the vast majority of people who are coming across our borders illegally are looking for better economic opportunity for themselves and their families. This does not justify illegal entry into the United States. So let me make it very clear, Mr. Speaker, "illegal" means "illegal." But it does mean that a long-term solution to our immigration problem will only be found when the economies of Mexico and the rest of Latin America provide better opportunities for their

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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